REMARKS

Prior to an examination of the present application, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Preliminary Amendment.

The present Preliminary Amendment is submitted to amend the substitute specification. No new matter has been added. Specifically, the term "flow matching" in the specification is incorrect and should be "mapping" to be consistent with the terminology used in the prior art reference discussed on page 14 of the present specification.

Corrected drawings are filed herewith under a separate cover letter. In the corrected drawings the following change has been made: in Figs. 8, 11A, and 11B, the term "flow matching" has been changed to the correct "mapping."

In view of the above, examination on the merits is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Sachio NAGAMITSU et al.

Jeffrey R. Filipel

Registration No. 41,471 Attorney for Applicants

JRF/fs Washington, D.C. 20006-1021 Telephone (202) 721-8200 Facsimile (202) 721-8250 March 26, 2007